

Indian Refugees from Afghanistan

1197. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether about 30,000 Indians left Afghanistan due to the political upheaval;
- (b) if so, the action taken to help such refugees on their arrival in India; and
- (c) the action taken to help the Indians still there to get visa for coming back to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENIVIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) No Indian refugees have arrived from Afghanistan. However, due to prolonged war and ethnic conflict in Afghanistan from 1980 onwards, a large number of Afghan nationals migrated to India. As per records, there are 12083 such registered Afghan national residing in India. To facilitate their stay in India, as per present policy, Afghan nationals who came to India with valid travel documents/passports are being granted six monthly extensions for their stay in the country. The present extension is valid upto 30th June, 2001. As and when the visa applications are received from the Afghan nationals they are decided on case to case basis.

Killing of Sikhs in Jammu and Kashmir

1198. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARD AR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister has deputed a four member team, headed by Union Minister of Government of India, to visit Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of recent killings of six innocent Sikhs in Mahjoongar area Srinagar;
- (b) if so, whether the team has till date submitted its report to Prime Minister; and
- (c) what is the reaction of Government thereto and what preventive measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Prime

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Minister deputed a five member team. After the visit the team apprised Prime Minister of the situation, and suggested steps to improve the security situation.

(c) Islamic outfits operating in J&K keep trying to create a communal divide by resorting to in-group killings of members of minority communities and thereby creating an atmosphere of fear with the aim to ethnic cleansing and forcing their exodus. To prevent it, the State Government has taken various preventive/confidence-building measures which *inter-alia* include:

- (i) Strengthening the Village Defence Committee system by providing them Training and improved weaponry and communication equipment.
- (ii) Strengthening the security grid around the minority inhabited villages.
- (iii) Increased frequency of patrolling by security forces of sensitive and vulnerable areas.
- (iv) Visits by State Government and security force officers to remote and minority villages.

After the incidents of Mehjoor Nagar, the State Government had further reviewed the security arrangements for minorities and remote and scattered populations. In addition there is a constant monitoring of the security situation by the respective Unified Headquarters level at Jammu & Srinagar as well as in Operations groups at various lower levels with a view to dynamic deployment and adoption of strategies by the security forces to meet the various challenges being thrown up by the terrorists. Government of India continues to provide support to the State Government and the security forces in their efforts.

Modernisation of Police in States

1199. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government provide grants for modernisation of Police in States;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of such grants provided during each of the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that grants given to Bihar is much less in comparison to other States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) how Government propose to compensate the Bihar Government in order to bring it at par with other States?